Up to Mar. 21 NORTH VIETNAM

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1,729 U.S. Aircraft Downed

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D.R.V. Foreign Ministry Makes Public President HO CHI MINH'S Reply to U.S. President L. B. JOHNSON

OVER the past period, world public opinion has been vehemently condemning the U.S. imperialists' aggression in Vietnam, and at the same time vigorously supporting the Vietnamese people's patriotic struggle and just stand. It has given a warm response to the statement made by the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to journalist W. Burchett on January 28, 1967.

To the legitimate demands of public opinion, the U.S. aggressors have impudently replied by a very serious escalation of the war. They are holding a war conference in Guam with a view to stepping up and expanding the war of aggression in Vietnam to a more serious extent. On the other hand, they unceasingly clamour about their hypocritical "desire for peace" and spread misinformation about so-called "existing contacts" between the United States and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

With a view to exposing to world public opinion the stubbornness and perfidy of the U.S. rulers, the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam makes public President Ho Chi Minh's reply to U.S. President L.B. Johnson.

Hanoi, March 21, 1967
THE D.R.V. FOREIGN MINISTRY

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In the first week of February 1967, the representative of the United States in Moscow requested to meet the representative of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and handed him a message from U. S. President L. B. Johnson to President Ho Chi Minh. A few days later, the United States resorted to the trick of "prolonging the bombing pause in North Vietnam" on the occasion of Tet (Lunar New Year Festival—Ed.) and set a time limit for Hanoi to give a "response". On February 14, 1967, the President of the United States ordered the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to be resumed and brazenly declared "a resumption of full-scale hostilities."

On February 15, 1967, the representative of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam handed to the representative of the United States President Ho Chi Minh's reply to U. S. President L. B. Johnson.

See page 2 : U.S. President L. B. Johnson's Message to President Ho Chi Minh.

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S REPLY TO U. S. PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON

"The U.S. Government Has Unleashed the War of Aggression in Vietnam. It Must Cease This Aggression. That Is the Only Way to the Restoration of Peace."

To His Excellency Mr LYNDON B. JOHNSON,
President,
United States of America

Your Excellency,

ON February 10, 1967, I received your message. This is my reply.

Vietnam is thousands of miles away from the United States. The Vietnamese people have never done any harm to the United States. But contrary to the pledges made by its representative at the 1954 Geneva Conference, the U.S. Government has ceaselessly intervened in Vietnam, it has unleashed and intensified the war of aggression in South Vietnam with a view to prolonging the partition of Vietnam and turning South Vietnam into a neo-colony and a military base of the United States. For over two years now, the U.S. Government has, with its air and naval forces, carried the war to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, an independent and sovereign country.

The U.S. Government has committed war crimes, crimes against peace and against mankind. In South Vietnam, half a million U.S. and satellite troops have resorted to the most inhuman weapons and the most barbarous methods of warfare, such as napalm, toxic chemicals and gases, to massacre our compatriots, destroy crops, and raze villages to the ground. In North Vietnam, thousands of U.S. aircraft have dropped hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs, destroying towns, villages, factories, roads, bridges, dykes, dams, and even churches, pagodas, hospitals, schools. In your message, you apparently deplored the sufferings and destructions in Vietnam. May I ask you : Who has perpetrated these monstrous crimes? It is the U.S. and satellite troops. The U.S. Government is entirely responsible for the extremely serious situation in Vietnam.

The U.S. war of aggression against the Vietnamese people constitutes a challenge to the countries of the socialist camp, a threat to the national independence movement, and a serious danger to peace in Asia and the world.

The Vietnamese people deeply love independence, freedom and peace. But in the face of the U.S. aggression, they have risen up, united as one man, fearless of sacrifices and hardships; they are determined to carry on their Resistance until they have won genuine independence and freedom and true peace. Our just cause enjoys strong sympathy and support from the peoples of the whole world including broad sections of the American people.

The U.S. Government has unleashed the war of aggression in Vietnam. It must cease this aggression. That is the only way to the restoration of peace. The U.S. Government must stop definitively and unconditionally its bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; withdraw from South Vietnam all U.S. and satellite troops; recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation; and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs. Such is the basic content of the four-point stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, which embodies the essential principles and provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam. It is the basis of a correct political solution to the Vietnam problem.

In your message, you suggested direct talks between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States. If the U.S. Government really wants these talks, it must first of all stop unconditionally its bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

It is only after the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States could enter into talks and discuss questions concerning the two sides.

The Vietnamese people will never submit to force; they will never accept talks under the threat of bombs.

Our cause is absolutely just. It is to be hoped that the U.S. Government will act in accordance with reason.

Sincerely,
HO CHI MINH

SOUTH VIETNAM — U.S. FAILURES IN ITS "SECOND DRY-SEASON COUNTER-OFFENSIVE"

- **In Tay Ninh Province (80km NW of Saigon) between Feb. 22 and Mar. 16: 5,216 G.I.'s Put out of Action, 420 Armoured Cars and Tanks, 55 Guns Destroyed, 91 Aircraft Downed.**
- **In the Western High Plateaux (350km NE of Saigon) between Feb. 15 and Mar. 14: 2,020 Enemy Troops (Mostly G.I.'s) Wiped Out, 34 Military Vehicles and 12 Guns Destroyed, 24 Aircraft Downed.**
- **In Quang Tri (South of the 17th Parallel) between Feb. 26 and Mar. 11: 2,730 Enemy Troops (Mostly U.S. Marines) Put out of Action, 20 Armoured Cars and 7 175mm Guns Destroyed, 13 Aircraft Downed.**

AN OBSTINATE AND PERFIDIOUS WARMONGER

NHAN DAN Commentary of Mar. 22, 1967

IN their aggressive scheme against Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists are pursuing a very wicked and perfidious double-dealing policy: on the one hand they intensify and expand the war, on the other hand they raise a ballyhoo about the so-called "good-will" of the U.S. to settle peacefully the Vietnam problem. Over the past two years, while raising in a continuous build-up the U.S. expeditionary forces in the southern part of our country to over 420,000 men, and at the same time, making very dangerous escalations in their war of destruction against the northern part of our country, they have not ceased clamouring for "peaceful talks" and "unconditional negotiations", with a view to placating public opinion which has been condemning them ever more strongly, and covering up their war intensification. The message sent by U.S. President Johnson to President Ho Chi Minh, made public on Mar. 21 by the D.R.V. Foreign Ministry, supplies a proof of U.S. doubletalk.

JOHNSON sent his message at a time when the U.S. imperialists were sustaining repeated defeats and were in a quandary. In South Vietnam, our people and armed forces had won victory upon victory, dealing heavy blows at the U.S., satellite and puppet troops, foiling their "dry-season counter-offensive", and striking directly at their big military bases. In North Vietnam, our people and armed forces upholding their determination to fight and to win, had been shooting down more and more U.S. piratic planes, and had captured many U.S. air pirates.

In the world, the movement of the peoples of many countries and of the American people against the dirty aggressive war of the U.S. imperialists, in support of the just struggle for independence and peace of the Vietnamese people, had been developing widely and vigorously. On January 28, 1967, in reply to journalist Wilfred Burchett, D.R.V. Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh once again emphasized the determination of our government and people to resist U.S. aggression in order to defend their sacred national rights; he reiterated the correct position of our government and people in the settlement of the Vietnam problem; at the same time he unequivocally expressed the goodwill of our government and people as regards a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam problem. The correct and just stand and the serious attitude full of goodwill of our government, expounded in Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh's reply, had been approved and supported by public opinion all over the world.

The governments and peoples of the fraternal socialist countries had been wholeheartedly supporting our people, the governments of many nationalist countries had expressed support of the just stand for independence and peace of our people. The world peoples, including the people of the United States, were supporting our people's struggle against aggression. The governments of a number of countries allies of the U.S. had also came out against the U.S. war in Vietnam. A powerful wave of struggle had surged up throughout the world and even in the United States, demanding that the U.S. government end unconditionally its bombing of North Vietnam. Even among the U.S. ruling circles many influential political figures had raised more and more strongly their voices, demanding that Johnson end the bombing of North Vietnam so that negotiations could be held to settle peacefully the Vietnam problem.

The world people's movement of protest against the U.S. aggression and the inner contradictions among the U.S. ruling circles, coupled with the ever greater military and economic difficulties caused to the U.S. by the war in Vietnam had driven the Johnson clique into a corner. But they still obdurately continued to step up the war. At the same time, they resorted to many perfidious moves in an attempt to deceive public opinion. They brazenly said that there had been no "sign" about our people's readiness to settle the Vietnam problem peacefully. So doing, they wanted to shift on our people the blame for prolonging the war. They claimed that the U.S. bombing would not affect "peaceful negotiations". This claim was intended to make public opinion believe that the U.S. could continue bombing North Vietnam, which would not preclude talks between the U.S. and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. For the same purpose, they brazenly spread the rumour that "secret contacts" were going on between the U.S. and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. These contacts of the U.S. ruling circles were aimed at coping with the movement of protest of the world and American people and the protest among the U.S. ruling circles, and sowing confusion among public opinion, so that they could continue to intensify their aggressive war in South Vietnam and escalate their war of destruction in North Vietnam. The message sent by Johnson to President Ho Chi Minh was but part of this dangerous scheme of the U.S.

Couched in seemingly sorrowful and pathetic words, Jonhson's message reeks of colonialism and is full of ill-will. He shed some crocodile's tears about "a heavy toll in lives lost, in wounds inflicted" and about "simple human misery" in the war in Vietnam, while the people of the whole world know that it is the United States which has provoked that criminal war and has been massacring the people and ravaging our country. He said that both the U.S. and Vietnam had "a heavy obligation to seek earnestly the path to peace", but the peoples of the world have seen more and more clearly that the U.S. is the aggressor, and that the Vietnamese people are fighting against aggression, and demand that the U.S. stop its aggressive war in Vietnam. He kept claiming for a "reciprocal action" so that the U.S. could stop bombing North Vietnam. This U.S. arrogant claim has been categorically rejected by the Vietnamese people and the world peoples. He also protested U.S. "goodwill" and said that over the past years, the U.S. had made many "efforts" towards a "peaceful settlement" of the Vietnam problem, but everybody has clearly realized the bellicose, stubborn and perfidious nature of the U.S. aggressors, and that all the "peace" tricks of the U.S. are only aimed at deceiving the world peoples and covering up its acts of war intensification.

In short, the arguments put forth in Johnson's message are worn out ones, and his message is only a new tricky "effort". This message was sent on the occasion of the *Tet* (Lunar New Year Festival), at a time when the U.S. ruling circles had many times made statements that sounded like an ultimatum to put pressure on our people in the North, demanding that they refrain from supporting and assisting their compatriots in the South. In the small hours of February 13 and 14, Johnson ordered resumption of the bombing of North Vietnam, while the cease-fire order of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation was still in force. Later, he ordered measures to be taken to step up the war of destruction against North Vietnam, such as using long-range batteries based south of the demilitarized zone to bombard North Vietnam, shelling the coastal areas of North Vietnam from warships and dropping mines into rivers in North Vietnam.

Another U.S. escalation has been repeated bombings and strafings of towns and industrial centres in North Vietnam since the Lunar New Year's Festival. The Guam conference held by Johnson and many high-ranking military and civilian officials of the U.S. was aimed at further stepping up the U.S. military actions in both zones of Vietnam. All U.S. moves prior to and after the sending of Johnson's message further show that the U.S. President's message is only a cunning move to cover up U.S. perfidy and intensification of its war of aggression against Vietnam.

THE Vietnamese people are never afraid of the U.S. imperialists' war manoeuvres. The Vietnamese people are resolved to carry on their fight against U.S. aggression and for national salvation till complete victory. President Ho Chi Minh's reply to U.S. President Johnson has fully expressed the Vietnamese people's determination to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors. By waging a war of aggression against Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists have trampled underfoot the Geneva Agreements on Vietnam, international law as well as the elementary principles of freedom, justice and humanity, throwing a challenge to the socialist camp and threatening the movement for national independence and peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

That is why the world people including the American people, have been warmly supporting the just struggle of the Vietnamese people and firmly opposing the U.S. imperialists' dirty war.

Pointing out with firmness the reasonable way to settle the Vietnam problem, President Ho Chi Minh's letter stressed: "The U.S. government has unleashed the war of aggression in Vietnam. It must cease this aggression. That is the only way to the restoration of peace".

The Vietnamese people have made unequivocally clear their position: The U.S. government must stop definitively and unconditionally the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; withdraw all troops of the U.S. and its satellites from South Vietnam; recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation; and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs. That is the basic content of the 4-point stand of the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam which embodies the essential principles and provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreements of Vietnam, and is the basic of a correct political solution to the Vietnam problem.

Concerning the possibility of talks between Vietnam and the United States, President Ho Chi Minh's letter reaffirmed the view of the Vietnamese people on these terms: "It is only after the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States could enter into talks and discuss questions concerning the two sides."

The sound and reasonable attitude full of goodwill of the D.R.V. Government and the Vietnamese people has been enjoying sympathy and support from public opinion in the world and the United States.

The U.S. imperialists' claim for "conditional cessation of bombing" and their menacing statements which sounded like an ultimatum to our people are unreasonable insolent acts. As an aggressor, the U.S. must unconditionally end its air raids in North Vietnam and its aggressive war against Vietnam and unconditionally withdraw its troops from South Vietnam. The United States has no right to impose any condition whatsoever on our people.

THE Vietnamese people earnestly love peace and want an end to the war so as to go on building a prosperous country. But, as President Ho Chi Minh has said, "the Vietnamese people cherish peace, genuine peace, peace in independence and freedom, not sham peace, an 'American peace'."

If the U.S. imperialists stubbornly continue their aggressive war against Vietnam, the people throughout Vietnam are determined to fight to a finish.

In his letter to U.S. President Johnson, President Ho Chi Minh stressed that "the Vietnamese people will never submit to force; they will never accept talks under the threat of bombs."

In his appeal to the entire Vietnamese people on July 17, 1966, President Ho Chi Minh clearly pointed out: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom... For the defence of the independence of the Fatherland, and for the fulfilment of our obligation of the peoples struggling against U.S. imperialism, our people and army, united like one man, will resolutely fight till complete victory, whatever the sacrifices and hardships may be."

Marching forward in response to President Ho Chi Minh's sacred call for national salvation, the armed forces and people throughout Vietnam will unceasingly enhance their patriotism and increase their hatred for the enemy, do their utmost to bring into full play their revolutionary heroism, deal repeated thunder blows at the U.S. aggressors, and win ever greater victories.

The U.S. aggressors are bogged down knee-deep in the people's war now vigorously developing in South Vietnam.

In their escalation in North Vietnam, they are also being soundly beaten by our army and people. With justice on our side, and with the great strength of 31 million people united as one man, we are determined to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors. We are backed by the great, wholehearted fraternal support and assistance of the whole socialist camp. We are enjoying the sympathy and support of the world peoples' front which is standing on our side and, together with our people, opposing the U.S. imperialists.

Johnson and all his top aides discussed in Guam measures to step up the war and, at the same time, blared out deceitful statements on U.S. "goodwill" for peace. Sustaining repeated failures, they have taken passive steps of war escalation. Because their war manoeuvres have gone bankrupt one after another, they are resorting to new ones, but, try as they might, they can by no means escape complete failure. We have fought for decades now, we have made all preparations to fight dozens of years more for our independence and freedom. We are ready to cope with all U.S. plans for war expansion and fear no intimidation moves of U.S. imperialism.

Under the clearsighted leadership of the Party and government headed by President Ho Chi Minh, our armed forces and people will certainly defeat the U.S. aggressors so as to defend the North, liberate the South and achieve the reunification of the country, thus contributing to the defence of the socialist camp and the safeguarding of peace in South-East Asia and the world.

U.S. PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

His Excellency HO CHI MINH,
President,
Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Dear Mr President,

I am writing to you in the hope that the conflict in Vietnam can be brought to an end. The conflict has already taken a heavy toll — in lives lost, in wounds inflicted, in property destroyed, and in simple human misery. If we fail to find a just and peaceful solution, history will judge us harshly.

Therefore, I believe that we both have a heavy obligation to seek earnestly the path to peace. It is in response to that obligation that I am writing directly to you. We have tried over the past several years, in a variety of ways and through a number of channels, to convey to you and your colleagues our desire to achieve a peaceful settlement. For whatever reasons these efforts have not achieved any results.

It may be that our thoughts and yours, our attitudes and yours, have been distorted or misinterpreted as they passed through these various channels. Certainly that is always a danger in indirect communication.

There is one good way to overcome this problem and to move forward in the search for a peaceful settlement. That is for us to arrange for direct talks between trusted representatives in a secure setting and away from the glare of publicity. Such talks should not be used as a propaganda exercise but should be a serious effort to find a workable and mutually acceptable solution.

In the past two weeks, I have noted public statements by representatives of your government suggesting that you would be prepared to enter into direct bilateral talks with representatives of the U.S. government, provided that we ceased "unconditionally" and permanently our bombing operations against your country and all military actions against it. In the last days, serious and responsible parties have assured us indirectly that this is in fact your proposal.

Let me frankly state that I see two great difficulties with this proposal. In view of your public position, such action on our part would inevitably produce worldwide speculation that discussions were under way and would impair the privacy and secrecy of those discussions. Secondly, there would inevitably be grave concern on our part whether your government would make use of such action by us to improve its military position.

With these problems in mind, I am prepared to move even further towards an ending of the hostilities than your government has proposed in either public statements or through private diplomatic channels. I am prepared to order a cessation of bombing against your country and the stopping of further augmentation of U.S. forces in South Vietnam as soon as I am assured that infiltration into South Vietnam by land and by sea has stopped. These acts of restraint on both sides would, I believe, make it possible for us to conduct serious and private discussions leading toward an early peace.

I make this proposal to you now with a specific sense of urgency arising from the imminent New Year holidays in Vietnam. If you are able to accept this proposal I see no reason why it could not take effects at the end of the New Year, or Tết holidays. The proposal I have made would be greatly strengthened if your military authorities and those of the government of South Vietnam could promptly negotiate an extension of the Tết truce.

As to the site of the bilateral discussions I propose, there are several possibilities. We could, for example, have our representatives meet in Moscow where contacts have already occurred. They could meet in some other country such as Burma. You may have other arrangements or sites in mind, and I would try to meet your suggestions.

The important thing is to end a conflict that has brought burdens to both our peoples, and above all to the people of South Vietnam. If you have any thoughts about the actions I propose, it would be most important that I receive them as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

The Vietnamese People Are Determined To Struggle Against U.S. Aggression Till Final Victory

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN

(People's Army)

OUR people do not encroach upon an inch ... of U.S. territory; they are waging a defensive war in their own country. Our people are firmly resolved to defeat U.S. aggression precisely because they assume heavy responsibility towards the very existence of their country, towards the national liberation movement of the oppressed peoples, towards the defence of the socialist camp and the safeguarding of peace in South-East Asia and the world. Johnson's contention that both sides "have a heavy obligation" means that he wants to put the aggressor and his victim on the same footing, and seeks to defend his gangster's stand in any settlement of the Vietnam problem.

... Washington has no right to bomb the Democratic Republic of Vietnam—an independent and sovereign country and a member of the socialist camp—and so it has no right to pose any condition to a cessation of the bombing. Washington has no right to send an expeditionary corps to South Vietnam, and so it should withdraw its troops unconditionally. Yet, not only does it refuse to do so, but it shamelessly lays down conditions which should be met before it would stop sending more reinforcements! Indeed, this is pure gangster's behaviour! To accept Washington's so-called "principle of reciprocity" means to let it use the enormous war machine it has built up in South Vietnam, which comprises more than a million U.S., satellite and puppet troops, to massacre our Southern compatriots, while the people of the North should sit with folded arms and refrain from helping their Southern brothers and sisters in their struggle for self-defence. No! A thousand times no! This cannot be so!

In fact, the so-called "principle of reciprocity" put forward by Washington is the main feature of Johnson's message. It expresses in the most impudent way Washington's aggressive designs and deceitful allegations about peace. It is also a machiavellian scheme aimed at covering up new U.S. plans for escalation.

... For our people, and for all justice-loving peoples of the world, the only just principle of reciprocity which could be applied to the Vietnam problem is the following: Washington has committed aggression against another nation; let it turn back; let it put an end to its aggression! Our country being victim of aggression by U.S. imperialism, our people have the right to fight the aggressors until final victory. This is our answer to the U.S. leaders' ultimatum, in which they demand that Hanoi should reply.

... In response to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, their hearts seething with hatred for the enemy, our armed forces, together with our entire people, are resolved to march forward, to hit even harder and more accurately at the enemy, defeat him militarily and crush his will of aggression.

LAO DONG

(Labour) Mar. 23, 1967

ALL along the many decades of revolutionary struggle for our country's independence and freedom, for national liberation, our working class has shrunk from no difficulty, from no sacrifice. At present, in socialist building and in the anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation, our working class, developing its role of revolutionary vanguard, has won brilliant successes in production, national building, and combat. Our working class and people are strongly devoted to the cause of national reunification. That is why in the present struggle against U.S. imperialism, for national salvation, our working class pledges itself to bring the most worthy, the most important contribution, so as to defeat the U.S. aggressors entirely, liberate the people and itself, build a peaceful, reunified, independent, democratic and prosperous Vietnam.

TIEN PHONG

(Vanguard) Mar. 24, 1967

AT present U.S. imperialism is sustaining serious defeats, whereas our armed forces and people in the whole country have won ever more important victories. Such is the situation in all theatres of operations. This shows that the more expeditionary troops U.S. imperialism brings to South Vietnam and the more it intensifies its war of aggression, the more bitter defeats it will suffer.

... Being the shock force of our people in the anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation, our youth and students, more than ever, realize the glorious responsibility that is theirs at a time when the nation's destiny is being decided. They clearly understand that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom". With independence and freedom, they will have everything. Without independence and freedom, they can have nothing. For independence and freedom, they will endure every sacrifice, they will fight on until final victory.

Our youth and students deeply love peace, but they want a genuine peace, peace in independence and freedom, and not a sham peace, a "pax americana". If U.S. imperialism persists in its war of aggression, our people and our youth will fight to the end to win and preserve independence and freedom.

THOI MOI

(New Times) Mar. 23, 1967

IN its war of aggression against the South and its war of destruction against the North of our country, U.S. imperialism has sustained ever more bitter defeats. World opinion, including American opinion, has voiced ever more severe condemnation of it. In such a juncture, it should have given up its aggressive designs and beaten a retreat. Instead, it has shown extreme mulishness.

By sending his message, a trick as plain as a pikestaff, Johnson hoped that he would, should his scheme work, conquer the South of our country at no cost. And should the trick fizzle out, he would have shown world opinion that he had "made efforts", that he had engaged in "secret contacts for peace" and that, rebuffed, he had no choice left but to intensify the war. But no bluff could trick world opinion for a long time. The new, extremely serious steps taken by Washington in its war escalation, and the Guam conference, whose purpose is the intensification of the U.S. war of aggression, are proof that Johnson's manoeuvre is but a smokescreen.

Washington has failed to subdue our people by force of arms; let it nurture no hope of deceiving us by words and machinations.

THU DO HANOI

(Hanoi Daily) Mar. 22, 1967.

UNDER no circumstances are our people afraid of U.S. war methods. They are firmly resolved to carry on the anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation until final victory. This resolve is clearly expressed in President Ho Chi Minh's answer to U.S. President Johnson.

In response to President Ho's appeal: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom", our people are determined to defeat U.S. aggression so as to defend the North, liberate the South, and reunify the country.

For the defence of the independence of the Fatherland, and for the fulfilment of our obligation to the peoples struggling against U.S. imperialism, our people and army, united as one man, will resolutely fight till complete victory whatever the sacrifices and hardships may be.

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S APPEAL
July 1966

Johnson's Message Arouses Great Indignation Among North Vietnam People

THE publication of the message sent by U.S. President L.B. Johnson to President Ho Chi Minh last February has aroused great indignation among the various strata of the North Vietnamese people at Washington's aggressive and perfidious manoeuvres.

As we go to press (March 24) numerous political and mass organizations, among them the Vietnam Socialist Party, the Vietnam Democratic Party, the Youth Association, the Labour Youth Union, the Students' Union, the Women's Union, the Hanoi Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, etc., have published declarations and many collectives—workers, peasants, military men, people of towns and countryside,... — have held meetings, condemning Johnson's aggressive acts and tortuous allegations aimed at deceiving world opinion and covering up further intensification of the war.

In a declaration dated March 22, 1967, the Vietnam Socialist Party stated: "It is U.S. imperialism which is the aggressor. In accordance with common law as well as international law, the aggressor must put an end to aggression. It is out of the question that there should be 'acts of restraint on both sides'. There can be no question of putting the burglar and the master of the house on the same footing. It is clear that in face of Yankee imperialism, brazen-faced and machiavellian, only one attitude is correct: to fight it until it gives up its will of aggression, however long this may take."

Mai Khang, a woman worker at the Hanoi Engineering plant, said: "It is U.S. imperialism which has been bombing our villages and schools, killing our women, children and old folk. Recently Johnson has made new steps in his criminal escalation. His tortuous allegations arouse strong indignation in our hearts. His barbarous actions do not intimidate us in the least. We are resolved to follow President Ho Chi Minh's appeal: 'Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom'. Whatever difficulties and sacrifices we may have to overcome, we are determined to carry through all tasks in production, fighting, and the organization of daily life."

New slogans have been inscribed by Haiphong port workers, men and women, on their cranes, tractors, lorries, etc.: "We do not fear U.S. bombs! We are determined to defeat U.S. aggression!"

Workers at the Dong Xuan Knitwear Factory have pledged to fulfil the plan for the first four months of the year before the end of this month.

The personnel of the Road Transport Undertaking No 14 promise to "bring the goods to destination; ensure the security of goods, personnel and matériel; speed up the repair and overhauling of vehicles so as to make them serviceable again in the shortest time possible — and this under all circumstances."

Meeting by workers of Tran Hung Dao Engineering Plant (Hanoi) condemning Johnson's double talk.

HERE and THERE in D.R.V.

Initial Achievements in the Building and Development of Local Industries

IN the urgency of the anti-U.S. fight local industries have fulfilled their state plan and topped the 1965 mark by 0.7 per cent (the A category by 7.45 per cent).

The increase was over 70 per cent for the products for communications and transport and 44 per cent for these serving agriculture. Almost all farm tools and machines for agriculture, machine tools for the development of industry and for the repair of other machines, and the big means of transport increased from 1.5 to 4.5 times. The metallic products for current use such as lamp torches, storm lamps, pots, cast iron pans, etc also increased about twofold.

Many local industry structures have been built, others have been supplied better equipment. Investments in this branch doubled compared with 1965 and were almost equal to the total investments in the four previous years (1961-1965).

According to reports from 14 provinces, in the past year 74 new projects and 137 enlarged ones went into production.

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Supply and Marketing Co-Ops Develop in North Vietnam Countryside

SUPPLY and marketing co-operatives have so far been set up in over 85 per cent of villages in North Vietnam. Beside the network of state trade, these trading establishments are developing their effectiveness in serving production, the fighting and the people's life.

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Emulation Movement in the Education Branch

IN the 1965-1966 school-year, the number of schools recognized as outstanding schools made up over 20 per cent of the whole. The list of good teachers and good students trebled that in the previous school-year.

The Council of Ministers recently took the decision to recognize 380 socialist labour teams in the educational branch as against 283 in the previous year. Such teams have increased not only in quantity but also in quality. All their activities have been focussed on training new men, connecting theoretical knowledge learnt at school to the realities in life, and production work to the fighting. 100 per cent of the students in these schools passed their year-end or graduation exams. Almost all excellent students commended by President Ho Chi Minh came from these schools.

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WILL NEVER SUBMIT TO FORCE

Giai Phong *(Liberation) Radio commentary on President Ho Chi Minh's reply to L.B. Johnson*

ON March 23, Giai Phong (Liberation) Radio broadcast its commentary on President Ho Chi Minh's reply to President L.B. Johnson. The commentary read:

"From South Vietnam resounding with military successes, our army and people listen attentively to every word of President Ho with immense joy, enthusiasm and confidence. The entire South Vietnamese people, from the uplands down to the plains, from the countryside to the cities, regard President Ho's voice as that of the people of the whole country. It expresses the iron-like determination of our entire nation now exerting all-out efforts in its determination to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors. The President's voice is that of justice, fully in accord with the March 22, 1965 five-point statement of the South Vietnam N.F.L., and exactly answering the earnest aspiration of the 14 million South Vietnamese as well as of the people in the whole country.

"President Ho's message, shining with the light of truth, has elucidated our people's just stand. It is an indictment that brings to light the bloody crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists against our entire people, and lays bare their aggressive, obdurate and crafty nature."

The Radio recalled the root cause of the Vietnam war which is the aggression against South Vietnam by the U.S. imperialists, and listed their savage crimes in both parts of Vietnam. It knocked the bottom out of Johnson's peace claptrap and pointed out that the South Vietnam N.F.L. is the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people and is leading them to inflict disastrous defeats on the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam.

"Nevertheless," *the Radio went on to say*, "they still put on the high-and-mighty airs and insist on 'reciprocity' before they stop bombing North Vietnam, or in other words, they deliberately put the aggressors and the victim of aggression on same footing, that is, they dictate their terms asking our compatriots in the North to renounce their sacred duty to assist their kindred South so that the 420,000 American G.I.'s and half a million or more puppet troops can have a free hand to massacre the South Vietnamese people and occupy our country. This is a gangster's logic one hundred per cent unacceptable. This outright arrogance which badly hurts our people's righteous national feeling is intolerable.

"Vietnam is one, the Vietnamese people are one. North and South are of the same family. Since they are under the same roof, North and South alike have the duty to join forces and fight shoulder-to-shoulder in defence of the Fatherland's frontier. That is our people's ethics. For their kith-and-kin in the South, the people of North Vietnam, notwithstanding sacrifices and devastation, continue to give wholehearted assistance to the struggle for the liberation of the South. The South Vietnamese people are deeply moved by this noble act imbued with North—South deep mutual affection. More than ever, they are well aware that all the great victories they have already won are inseparable from the devoted and unreserved assistance of their compatriots in the North.

"By obdurately infringing upon the North, the U.S. imperialists have hurt one half of the body of the Vietnam fatherland, and the Vietnamese people's sacred feeling. As a matter of course, in the spirit of *'The North calls, the South answers'*, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people are resolved to administer punitive blows 5 or 10 times heavier to the enemy, to avenge their Northern compatriots. In face of this new, extremely serious escalations by the U.S. imperialists, our people, more than never before, are deeply conscious that U.S. imperialism is a great peril to our nation. So long as its domination is still maintained in South, our people will never enjoy genuine peace, freedom and independence even for a single day. So long as they remain in the South, we shall be bereft not only of our present, but also of our past and of our future, and not only has our present generation to bear sufferings, but our younger generations will also have to experience untold bitterness.

"It is clear that, faced with such a brutal, barbarous and crafty enemy as U.S. imperialism, the South Vietnamese people and the Vietnamese people as a whole have only one choice, that is, to fight through to the end, until the last U.S. aggressor has to leave our country no matter the war may last 5, 10, 20 years or longer. The South Vietnamese armed forces and people will definitely never loose hold of their arms as long as their fundamental goals as laid down in the historic Mar. 22, 1965 5-point statement of the N.F.L., namely, **independence, democracy, peace and neutrality** are not yet attained.

"The truculent and stupid U.S. aggressors are nurturing the illusion that they can, with bombs and shells, intimidate our people and force us to lay down our arms and accept their capitulation terms. As President Ho stated in his reply to Johnson: **'The Vietnamese people deeply love independence, freedom and peace. But in the face of the U.S. aggression, they have risen up, united as one man, fearless of sacrifices and hardships; they are determined to carry on the Resistance 'until they have won genuine independence and freedom and true peace.**

"The Vietnamese people will never submit to force. This is the unshakable determination, the iron-will of the entire people from North to South. Let the U.S. imperialists renounce their hope to use bombs and shells for intimidating our people.

"As they are bent on using guns and bullets to talk with our people, we are ready to answer them with guns and bullets. We are resolved to fight to the finish, until the U.S. aggressors drop their aggressive designs.

The firm voice of President Ho Chi Minh is the voice of the entire Vietnamese people, urging the South Vietnamese army and people to surmount all difficulties and hardships, dash forward and wipe out as many U.S.-puppet-satellite troops as possible. For the independence of the Fatherland, for the nation's survival, in response to the call of the N.F.L. the South Vietnamese army and people will march resolutely forward toward even greater victories. The resounding victories won by them in Tri-Thien, Quang Ngai, Tay Nguyen, Tay Ninh Long An, Ben Tre and other places are not yet the hardest blows to the Yankees. We are determined to hit them 5 or 10 times harder, foil their second strategic dry-season counter-offensive and speedup their final doom."

GUAM CONFERENCE WILL NOT STAVE OFF U.S. DEFEAT IN SOUTH VIETNAM

JOHNSON, his close associates and their Saigon stooges assembled in Guam on March 20. After two days' work, the U.S. president stated that the meeting had no military purpose, that "there were no military decisions taken of any nature" (*AP*, Mar. 21), and that the main purpose was the transfer of responsibilities by the present U.S. civilian corps in Saigon to a new one. The American Chief Executive did his best to generate the belief that the Guam conference had exclusively dealt with the "other war", i.e. "pacification" and economic, political and social problems involved in his war of aggression in Vietnam.

Was it true? In point of fact, all the items of the agenda had been endorsed some time earlier in a meeting of the U.S. National Security Council, and disclosed by the Western press at its outset. That was a conference for the expansion of the Vietnam war. Revealing the dark design of the White House *AP* pointed out on March 16 that Johnson was devising a strategy "aimed bringing a maximum pressure — military and other — to bear on the "Vietnamese communists", including the stepping up of the bombing of North Vietnam, in an effort to end the war within the shortest delay. Fulbright, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, clearly described the objective of the White House boss while in Guam, pointing out that Johnson's design was "to seek a military success in Vietnam, to force Hanoi into surrender", and by so doing, the U.S. "would decimate the enemy" (the Vietnamese patriots - *Ed.*). "Then when he had surrendered," W.Fulbright added, "the U.S. would reconstruct Vietnam, offering it a kind of 'good life' that was not acceptable from the point of view of Asians." (*AFP*, March 19). Such being their transparent strategy, the Americans will soon undertake more "pacification" campaigns to strike at the Vietnamese people, start large-scale military operations against the N.F.L. bases with a view to destroying the resistance potential of the Vietnamese people thereby shaking their morale. At the same time they will step up their war of destruction in North Vietnam with the hammering of new targets, in an attempt to tighten the "noose" around the neck of the North Vietnamese and compell them renounce their sacred duty of assisting their Southern countrymen. The aggressors think that they can thus force the Vietnamese people in both North and South into accepting their capitulation terms.

In this connection the French daily *Le Figaro* (March 23) wrote: "After the Guam conference the war will enter a new phase. Simultaneously with the intensification of the war, Johnson is egging on the Saigon puppets to create a new government through faked elections, to choose a 'president' and set up an "assembly" as well as administrative bodies at

(Continued page 7)

The Guam Conference: *A Plot To Expand U.S. Aggressive War in Vietnam*

"THE meeting between Johnson and his political and military advisers on the one hand and the Saigon henchmen on the other, smacks of a 'war council'. In Guam the United States gives the finishing touch to a new war escalation in Vietnam which will further aggravate the tension in South-East Asia. Of course, the fundamental decisions on this move have been already planned in Washington. A clear proof of this is that to transfer B.52 heavy bombers from Guam to Thailand."

(Tass commentary of March 21, 1967)

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"WHILE advocating an extension of the aggressive war in Vietnam Johnson has not forgotten to explain away this war council with 'peace' protestations. The Guam Conference, he said, will assess the opportunities to restore peace in Vietnam by an honourable solution. However, even such influential members in the U.S. ruling circles as Mansfield, leader of the Democratic Party in the Senate and Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, have realized that it is truly difficult to hide the warlike nature of the Conference. In an answer to a television correspondent on March 20, Fulbright made no bones that what the Johnson administration wants is not peace negotiations but its opponent's surrender.

(Hsinhua commentary)

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"THE agenda and attendance of the Guam Conference shows that it is a continuation and extension of the Honolulu and Manila Conferences which have led to fresh war escalations in Vietnam. Johnson's present trip is aimed at nothing but a new step-up. But how can the American imperialists reverse the tide by 'frenzied war expansion'. This will only bring on them heavier losses and on Johnson sterner condemnation at home and abroad."

(North Korean News Agency commentary of Mar. 20, 1967)

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"THE Vietnamese people will not yield to violence nor fall into the enemy trap. Whatever the U.S. aggressors may do at Guam they will not escape failure. The Albanian people pledge themselves to the brother Vietnamese people that they will constantly side with them until the last G.I. is driven out of Vietnam, and they fully achieve their national aspirations."

(Albanian Zeri i Popullit)

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"TO the Vietnamese, Guam is a symbol of aggression because B.52 planes take off from there to strike at Vietnam. The Guam Conference is 'war escalation council'. But experience has shown that each U.S. escalation is fought off by the people in both zones of Vietnam while world support for Vietnam further increases. We are sure that the Vietnam people's Army and the South Vietnam Liberation Army are all ready to smash the new war moves of the U.S. imperialist at Guam".

(Neue Deutsch Zeitung G.D.R.)

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"FOLLOWING the Guam conference, in the hope of deceiving world opinion, Washington declares that nothing has been changed. Whatever it does, truth will triumph. Making plan after plan and spouting lie after lie, U.S. imperialism will end up by being defeated in Vietnam".

(Nationality, Phnom Penh)

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"THE purpose of the Guam conference is to prepare new escalations for U.S. escalation in Vietnam. But whatever sacrifices may be imposed on them, the Vietnamese people will never give up their ideal. For generations, they have fought against imperialism; that is why they feel endless hatred for it. Having won independence after a struggle that has lasted many generations, they will never submit to the American expeditionary corps and the other foreign mercenary troops. However long the war may last, the Vietnamese people are determined to fight to the end... The Americans must understand that they will never win by force of arms."

(Rangoon Daily, March 20, 1967 Retranslated)

Indomitable AND Victorious HON GAY

HERE stands the "eighth wonder of the world": the Ha Long Bay. The traveler revels in the immensity of nature and hundreds of islets which look like a "great wall" checking the tidal waves of the Pacific and safeguarding this fish-teeming bay, and this long strech of land sparkling with "black gold" which is Vietnam's richest coal-mine area.

A BISHOP AND A CARDINAL

SINCE August 5, 1964, Hon Gay has become one of the primary targets of the U.S. pirates in their military adventure. From that date, practically not a single day has elapsed without an adverse plane roaring past in the airspace of this region. Not only have townships been raided one after another, such as Ha Tu — razed to the ground on April 29, 1966, after 22 attacks — but Bai Chay, a health resort for Vietnamese and foreigners as well, has been virtually wrecked by 15 bombings and strafings. On Ha Long Bay one no more witnesses, as the legend has it, dragons descending from above to get water and make clouds, but American planes prowling continually and firing at the fishermen's tiny wooden boats.

The chief town of the coal-mine region is immersed in the flames of war. With Johnson's war escalated to a new high U.S. aircraft aim at industrial areas, with Hon Gay topping the list. For five days running beginning March 9 last, American jets mercilessly struck its centre and outskirts. The first raid was directed at the Saint Mary's Church district and the workers' living quarters around it. Ten 250-500kg bombs hit a small area inhabited by 1,500 people, 75 per cent of them being catholics. The attack started at 8.16 p.m. when the evening prayer was going on. 16 persons — 7 children — were killed, 30 others wounded, 40 houses destroyed, and the church literally razed to the ground. At 7.00 p.m. on March 13 U.S. aircraft again bombed the Church district and other "targets" inside the town, turning them into heaps of rubble.

The family of Quy, an old worker and chief of the catholic community, has suffered the heaviest losses. He has lost all his three grandchildren from 7 to 13. Bomb fragments had chopped off one of his wife's arm. While clearing the foundation of his demolished house with his son-in-law, old Quy still wearing a blood-stained bandage on his head, related to those who were visiting him what had happened to his family since his childhood. For two generations they have been attached to the colliers' land and the church. At a point he looked at the underground shelter where his grandchildren had been killed by bomb blasts, he stopped short and said, "I'm very sorry I've forgotten to say one thing to the International Investigating Committee... I beg you gentlemen to tell the world people that there can't be negotiations with the Yanks so long as every day they sow sufferings and mourning among my countrymen and my family". And pointing in the direction of the church he added, "We catholics will have them repay their debt". When he uttered these words his face turned pale and his eyes lit up.

Meanwhile, at the foot of the hill the flow of evacuees-youngsters and old-aged women — was filing off, many bringing Saint Mary's statues or their ancestors altars.

Bishop Vo Thanh Trinh did share his flock's feeling. Standing beside the huge bell and the twisted iron cross on a heap of bricks and tiles, he said: "Think that Cardinal Spellmann lavished praise on those criminals in his last Christmas sermon in Saigon. Spellmann has had his share in these crimes." From the hill-top Father Trinh showed us the neighbouring areas devastated by American aircraft, and on leaving he asked journalists and correspondents to expose all these crimes to world public opinion.

SEARCH AND DESTROY

THIS is the tactics used not only by Westmoreland throughout the South Vietnamese war theatre but also by U.S. aircraft in North Vietnam against civilian evacuees.

Here is the Ha Lam district with huge heaps of anthracite under the first warm sun-rays of the year. Ragged hills stand erect all around with terraced coal strata. Thousands of workers are busy at work with a high sense of urgency while trucks keep rolling to and fro all the time. At the foot of bare hills hundreds of houses have been newly built by miners' families evacuated from the town. Three times on March 10 and 11, U.S. jets bombed this and several nearby places. From 10 to 35 in number each time, they dropped altogether 84 250 - 500kg bombs, killing 20 people and injuring many others in spite of a pretty well organized air defence. Not counting 4 children and 2 nurses of a kindergarten, all of them were killed. Medical care is being given to 2 babies under two, and those of the two nurses.

Thus far Hon Gay has undergone 194 raids.

By hammering industrial centres, the aggressor want to strike at the source of life of millions of people, create unemployment among thousands of them and, thereby, cow our people into submission. U.S. aircraft have used every tactics. Instead of costly day-time attacks they carry out their raids at night. In successive waves they break in, drop their loads and flee to the sea. They intrude into the town's airspace when its life is at its busiest. 19 bombs rained at 6.56 p.m. on March 12, on the Long Street of the commercial quarter in the heart of Hon Gay, destroyed 60 houses and damaged as many. A similar raid took place at 7.00 p.m. the next day, causing 3 casualties. If it had not been for an adequate air defence the losses would have attained a much more serious measure.

The American aggressors pin much hope in bombing and strafing to drive thousands of people out of Hon Gay factories and mines into a miserable life, just as they do in rural areas of South Vietnam to herd our compatriots into disguised concentration camps. And just as their enterprise has failed in South Vietnam it will not come to light either in Hon Gay or in all other industrial centres of North Vietnam.

THE BITTER STRUGGLE CONTINUES

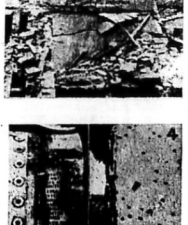
NGUYEN HUU BONG'S family has evacuated after the bombing of Saint Mary's Church. He remains in town to carry on his job. A turner in Hon Gay since 1925, he is now sixty and has four sons, all workers, too. One day, looking at a crammed, smoking train and noisy, fully loaded trucks rolling past amidst peals of laughter of workers on the way to their factories—a sign that Hon Gay has quickly resumed its normal activities—old Bong told an intimate of his, "I was born in this mine land, I won't leave it whatever happens". Thousands of colliers won't leave either, and struggle with might and main for the safeguard of their lives against air and sea pirates who may turn up at any moment.

Since August 5, 1964, 31 U.S. aircraft have been brought down by the armed forces and people of Hon Gay. They downed the first U.S. jet fighters and captured the first U.S. pilot in North Vietnam. Ha Tu self-defence members were the first to shoot down enemy aeroplanes with infantry weapons. On the night of last March 3, they thus set afire two others which soon crashed into the sea. Those few figures cannot of course give a complete picture of all the strength of this traditionally heroic land. Relying on a strong, adequate air defence system, the workers cling to their mines and factories. Should a workshop come under the enemy's fire those in charge of key machines would remain at their posts as long as these work. Should they find themselves unable to carry on production in big groups, they would achieve it in scattered small groups. Voicing the determination of his comrades, the director of a factory in Hon Gay harbour itself I am visiting, said to me, "Production will be kept going under whatever circumstances". The same will was asserted by the Chairman of the town administrative committee: "If the adversary forces our entire people to stand up with arms in hands, then the concern for the Hon Gay people's lives also urges us to go on producting at any cost". He was then with me in his office established in the heart of the town to better handle the situation in the current battle. He did not forget to mention the difficulties in view of the ever-increasing bombings and strafings. Pointing to the fishermen's boats along the seaside, he added: "Last year they fulfilled about 90 per cent of the State Plan. With our feet firm on this mine area, we workers won't allow the enemy to disrupt our production."

What was a resolve has become a fact.

A grim trial of strength is looming large, the outcome of which will not surely be in favour of the U.S. air marauders. Thousands of colliers are feverishly organizing themselves to meet it and the whole local people, called on to

(Continued page 7)



1. U.S. aircraft raiding Hon Gay on Mar. 10, 1967, hit a creche. Photo: An 8 month-old survivor, wounded in the thighs and hips. 2. A quarter of Haiphong city hit by U.S. aircraft on June 29, 1966. Photo: Fragments of an American C.B.U. and traces of steel pellets on a wall in Haiphong (combat on Mar. 10, 1967). 3. Fragments of an American C.B.U. and traces of steel pellets on a wall in Haiphong (combat on Mar. 10, 1967).

Under, all circumstances, the miners are determined to carry on production.

provide aid to regular air-defence units and civilian air-defence units. The latter have set up permanent - service groups to cope in time with the aftermaths of air raids which have already proved to be very efficient. Seventeen-year-old Lan and her group, for example, braved bombs and shells to save two children during a night attack. I chanced to attend a meeting of a workshop's delegation with a fire-fighting group to which it extended warmest congratulations for the courage displayed in putting out a fire threatening to burn down the whole enterprise and part of the town. The group was awarded the title of "Heroic unit" by the D.R.V. Government.

The Hon Gay people have set fine examples in other respects, too. It happens that U.S. jets bomb State department stores, scattering goods of every kind. Self-defence groups and passers-by pick them up, put them in good order again, and nothing apart from those destroyed or damaged by the planes have even been missing. Mrs Doa who had found a gold earing and Miss Hao, 700 dongs in a heap of bricks on such occasions, returned the lost property to their owners through street committees. They told me the story of a young boy that I shall never forget. Following an air raid the latter was brought to a hospital with a seriously broken arm. He did not utter a single groan, hardly said any word but just asked the physician who examined him, "Please, rid me of it, it annoys me". Those who came to see him told that the boy, by his name, was nine years old, a worker's son, and that he had been wounded while, of his own will, helping a self-defence group during the raid.

For two years and a half Hon Gay has been valiantly resisting the air strikes of the Seventh Fleet warships prowling off shore. It will continue to hold out.

GUAM...

(Continued from page 5)

various levels. In practice, all this is designed to consolidate one of the main supports of U.S. neo-colonialism in South Vietnam in view of the expansion of the aggressive war, and to serve as a bargaining instrument in Johnson's hands in future".

What novelty then has come out of the Guam meeting? As pointed out by *AFP* on March 21, the head of the Washington administration will continue the "baton and carrot" golicy.

It is crystal-clear to world public opinion that the U.S. aggressors have been compelled to speed up and expand the war as a result of their heavy failures in South Vietnam both on the political and military fields, especially in Operations *Cedar Falls* and *Junction City*, on the Western High Plateaux and Highway 9. 430,000 G.I.'s and over 950,000 puppet and satellite troops have proved incapable of extricating them from a dangerous quagmire. McNamara admitted in Guam: "The Vietcong were by no means beaten".

Will the foolish and obdurate intentions that Johnson showed in Guam bring him anywhere? Since the Honolulu (Feb., 1966) and Manila (Oct., 1966) conferences, at each of such meetings U.S. responsible authorities displayed their stubbornness to intensify and widen the Vietnam war. And each time they subsequently incurred more serious losses than the previous. After the Guam conference, too, the Americans will by no means be in a position to terminate the war as they want to; they will fail in their new scheme. None of their brutal pressure will shake the determination of the Vietnamese people. Thus, President Ho Chi Minh unmistakably has made clear in his reply to President Johnson: "The Vietnamese people will never submit to force; they will never accept talks under the threat of bombs".

The more obdurately the American imperialists expand their war of aggression, the more telling blows will be dealt at them by the Vietnamese people, resolved to strike harder and win bigger victories until they achieve their basic and sacred aims.

(Continued from page 8)

multi-battalion force and many supporting units) with more than 800 tanks and armoured cars, nearly 120 artillery pieces and hundreds of aircraft of various types including B. 52's for a massive sweep into the thick jungle area, not very large, north - northeast of Tay Ninh, the Americans hoped to overwhelm the L.A.F. with a superior force and arsenal. Drawing experience from previous setbacks, this time the U.S. Command made careful preparations and kept the operational plan secret until the last minute. They conducted "decoy" actions, staged false manoeuvres to make the most of the surprise factor, dispatched commandos and spies to probe the L.A.F.'s strength. Nevertheless, all these tactics failed bitterly. Still disappointed by their beating the air during the first days in the field, the invaders, with the prolongation of their operation, received in the ensuing days stunning blows from the Tay Ninh people and their armed forces. Their "biggest ever" operation had met with the heaviest ever setbacks.

The fighting is still going on. In the first 23 days alone (Feb. 22 — Mar. 16) the people and L.A.F. of Tay Ninh province wiped out more than 5,216 enemy troops (mostly Americans), destroyed 55 artillery pieces and 420 armoured cars and shot down 91 aircraft.

Their new victory was a brilliant victory for the "active annihilation of the enemy's military strength" tactics. By their unusual courage and their ingenious and versatile tactics, the L.A.F. not only wiped out an important part of the enemy's military strength but also set unprecedented records. In only a short time, 6 enemy artillery positions had been destroyed. The number of armoured cars destroyed so far—500 in all—was nearly 8 times more than in Operation *Attleboro*, and surpassed the total U.S. armored losses in 3 operations — *Attleboro*, *Cedar Falls* and *Gadsden*. One of the striking features was that the fledgeling artillery of the L.A.F. fighting in close coordination with friendly units, had achieved brilliant successes. Not only had it provided effective supporting fire for the infantry to wipe out the enemy as in Bau Co, Dong Pan and other areas, but it had also dealt the American troops blistering blows as in Ta Xia and Xa Mat. The concerted artillery and infantry attacks with great success marked the new development of the L.A.F. and struck fear into the enemy's heart. In the shelling of the encampment of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. First Infantry, in Ta Xia (Mar. 5), the L.A.F. artillery had not only took 700 casualties from the American forces and the Australian and South Korean mercenaries and destroyed 3 enemy artillery positions, but had also silenced all 106.7-mm mortar sites in the neighbourhood. The American aggressors used to count on their artillery and armoured power as their trump card. Their morale quickly sank when the L.A.F. hit hard at their gun emplacements and destroyed their heavy guns, tanks and armoured cars. Over these 23 days, all 3 kinds of troops of the Liberation Army fought in close co-ordination, and employed very resourceful and flexible tactics, now concentrating and now scattering their forces, at times laying in ambush, now pitting ten against one and then pitting one against ten, always taking the offensive, leaving the American troops no time to pary a frontal attack while they were still busy covering their rear, and making them vulnerable to attacks by both the main force and the guerrillas and regional troops. Not only had the Americans been beaten while on the move, but their forward Command posts, their logistic bases, their artillery emplacements and even their rear bases and the regrouping areas of their tactical reserve forces had also came under attack. A group of the U.S. 11th Armoured Regiment stationed at Ong Hung was pounded on Feb. 28. So were the base camp of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division in Cu Chi, and the airfield of the U.S. First Infantry Division in Phu Loi.

It is clear that by successively fighting off three large-scale U.S. operations, the armed forces and people of Tay Ninh have matured to an unusual extent, strengthened their foothold, seized the initiative firmly in their hands, frustrated all the strategic designs of the enemy and foiled all his new tactics. From "gradual progress" and "baiting" to "encirclement", "taking in flank" and "screwing", the Americans have fully exploited their own tactics but, tightly hemmed in by the giant net of people's war, they have failed to realize their ambitions and instead have been seriously trounced by the L.A.F.

This main U.S. operation in the second dry - season counter-offensive is coming to a flop. Meanwhile on the other fronts, American G.I.'s are also taking serious beatings. In co-ordination with the fighters in Tay Ninh, the armed forces and people of Quang Tri are increasing their attacks along Highway No 9 and those of the Western High Plateaux are spreading the enemy on the banks of Sa Thay river. U.S. bases in Da Nang and Chu Lai have also been under repeated shellings. The enemy's battle array, already confused, is now a real mess.

Though seriously mauled, the U.S. aggressors are still obdurate and blind enough to rush headlong into new adventures in an effort to seek a way out.

Presumably, they think that as they have previously failed in small combats, they can now win in large-scale operations. It is transparent, however, that they have failed in both small- and large-unit operations, and the bigger their operations, the heavier their defeats. In the present war of aggression against Vietnam, this has turned out to be a law for the aggressors. With the great strength and the inexhaustible potentialities of people's war, the South Vietnamese army and people are inflicting defeats on more than one million U.S., puppet and satellite troops and frustrating their second strategic dry - season counter-offensive, and in the full flush of victory, they will continue to dash forward to completely defeat the U.S. aggressors.

The L.A.F....

(Continued from page 6)

most of them G.I.'s, destroyed 20 tanks and armoured cars, 7 175mm guns, downed or destroyed on the ground 13 helicopters.

In the Western High Plateaux, after Feb. 15 victory (2 U.S. companies annihilated, 2 U.S. companies decimated, 6 U.S. helicopters downed on the banks of the Sa Thay river), the L.A.F. recorded other successes:

— On Feb. 21 they annihilated 1 U.S. infantry company, 65km south west of Kontum.

— On Mar. 3, they decimated 2 U.S. companies on the bank of the Sa Thay (180 G.I.'s killed on the spot).

— On Mar. 12, they encircled and annihilated 1 U.S. company and decimated 2 relief U.S. companies.

— On Mar. 13 night, they put out of action 345 G.I.'s and 75 puppet troops 60km south of Plei J'rang, destroyed 6 105mm guns and 2 75mm guns.

— On Mar. 14, they annihilated 2 platoons of G.I.'s in an ambush and decimated 1 U.S. company on the West of the Sa Thay.

In 28 days, from Feb. 15 to Mar. 14, the L.A.F. annihilated 5 companies (among them 4 U.S.) decimated 12 U.S. companies and the C.P. of a U.S. brigade, put out of action 2,020 enemy troops, downed 24 planes, destroyed 34 military vehicles and 12 75mm guns and 105mm guns.

During this period, while U.S. forces were badly mauled north of Tay Ninh (Operation *Junction City*), the L.A.F. launched several attacks in the neighbourhood of Saigon:

— On Mar. 16, they damaged the U.S. 10,000 ton — ship *Conqueror* on the Long Tau river, 22km south-east of Saigon, hitting it with 6 shells of recoilless gun.

— On Mar. 19 night, they attacked a convoy of armoured cars from the 1st Brigade (9th I.D.) 25km north - northwest of Saigon. The enemy gave the casualties at 40 G.I.'s put out of action.

— On Mar. 15 night, they bombarded the C.P. of the American 25th I.D. 30km north-west of Saigon, putting out of action 22 men (according to enemy count).

— On Mar. 2 night, they bombarded Duc Hoa airstrip (25km west of Saigon) for the second time, razing the C.P., destroying 4 L-19 reconnaissance planes and putting out of action 11 enemy troops.

— On Mar. 12 night, they annihilated a company of Security Guards and 2 groups of "Pacification cadres" 50km north-east of Saigon.

The situation of the G.I.'s in the Mekong Delta was no better. At the end of February, the L.A.F. attacked Tra Noc (Can Tho) and Than Cuu Nghia airstrips and the enemy posts in Bac Lieu (See *Vietnam Courier* Nos 101-102).

— On Mar. 3 night, they attacked 2 companies of Security Guards near Vi Thanh district (45km south-east of Can Tho), annihilating 1 company and 2 platoons of the remaining one. At the same time, they bombarded artillery emplacements at Vi Thanh, killing 50 enemy troops and destroying 1 105mm gun.

— On Mar. 13, they razed 1 enemy post 30km south of the Ben Tre provincial capital, near the mouth of the Co Chien river. They attacked an enemy encampment, annihilating 1 puppet company, and bombarded Tan Thanh airstrip near the provincial capital, causing great damage.

In the region north of Trung Bo (Central Vietnam) where the enemy had been striving to "pacify" like Thua Thien province the L.A.F. attacked on Mar. 7 night the Quang Dien militiacen (11 km north-west of the provincial capital) for the second time, capturing 100 men and putting out of action 2 companies. The attack has supplied the evidence that there is no sanctuary anywhere for the Americans and their henchmen.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

"JUNCTION CITY"...

U. S. FAILURES IN ITS "SECOND DRY-SEASON COUNTER-OFFENSIVE"

"JUNCTION CITY" — MAIN U.S. OPERATION — FOILED

IN implementation of their "second strategic dry-season counter-offensive plan", the U.S. aggressors have chosen Tay Ninh as their main target to achieve their dual strategic objectives — "search-and-destroy" and "pacification". With the great ambitions to wipe out a revolutionary base, destroy a part of the main forces of the Liberation Army and pacify this area the in hope of easing the heavy pressure on their defence line north of Saigon, from mid-October 1966 to the beginning of February 1967, the U.S. Command mustered their forces to launch three major raiding operations — *Attleboro*, *Cedar Falls* and *Gadsden* — on Tay Ninh and the region adjoining Tay Ninh, Thu Dau Mot and Gia Dinh provinces. These ambitions, however, were shattered at the very outset by the armed forces and people of East Nam Bo.

Infuriated by these setbacks and worried by the growth of the L.A.F., Westmoreland again concentrated every effort on Operation *Junction City*, hoping to reap some military, political and psychological advantages. As this operation was launched when the aggressors were being in a strategically defensive position and facing a tactical crisis, its design was simply to put up a defensive counter-offensive. Therefore, the higher the enemy raised his stakes, the more he lost, the deeper he got involved, the greater became his quandary, and the longer he dragged on the operation, the heavier his casualties.

By hurling into action at a time 45,000 U.S., puppet and satellite troops (including 7 infantry divisions, one U.S. armoured regiment, a puppet

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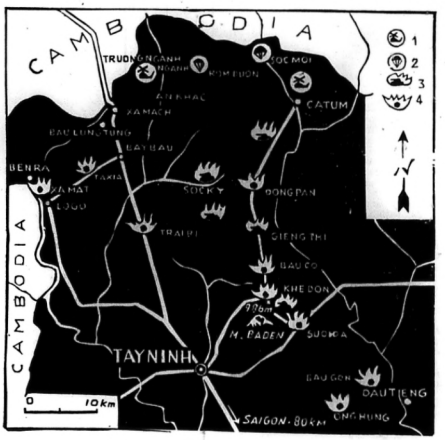

Enemy landing : 1. *Helilift troops*
2. *Paratroops*

L.A.F. attacks : 3. *Destruction of armoured cars and tanks*
4. *Pounding of enemy positions*

SOME L.A.F. SUCCESSES IN FOILING OPERATION *JUNCTION CITY*

APART from isolated actions in which the guerillas and regional forces wore down the enemy's strength, the L.A.F. won many remarkable battles :

Feb. 22-28 :

— In the Soc Moi area, they wiped out 102 G.I.'s, destroyed 2 armoured cars and shot down 4 aircraft.

— In the Soc Ky area, they put out of action 118 G.I.'s, destroyed 6 armoured cars and shot down 4 aircraft.

— In the Ta Dat area, they knocked out 223 G.I.'s, destroyed 17 armoured cars and shot down 13 aircraft.

— In the Soc Xoai area, they completely destroyed an American platoon, destroyed 17 armoured cars and shot down 3 aircraft.

— In the Hang Gon area (in one day and one night) they annihilated 2 U.S. infantry companies, destroying 12 105 mm howitzers.

— In the Nganh Nganh area (in one day and one night) they knocked out a whole U.S. company and inflicted heavy losses on another.

— In the Gieng Thi area (in one day and one night) they put out of action one U.S. company and routed another.

— In the Ong Hung area (in one day and one night) they completely wiped out a motorized group of 29 tanks and armoured personnel carriers and 200 G.I.'s.

Mar. 1 and 2 :

— In the An Khac, Nganh Nganh and Bau Co areas, they put out of action 113 G.I.'s and destroyed 13 tanks and armoured cars.

Mar. 3 :

— In the Ca Tum area, they knocked out 380 G.I.'s (including a whole company neatly wiped out) and shot down 8 aircraft.

Mar. 4 and 8 :

— In the Bay Bau, Bau Lung Tung and An Khac areas, they wiped out 100 G.I.'s, destroyed 12 armoured vehicles and shot down 4 aircraft.

— In the Ta Xia area (evening Mar. 5), they put out of action 700 G.I.'s and Australian and South Korean mercenaries, destroyed 22 105mm and 175mm guns, and set 20 military vehicles afire.

On the night of Mar. 9 :

In the Ben Ra area, they wiped out 300 G.I.'s

On the night of Mar. 10 :

Along Highway No 4 (Bau Co—Ca Tum) they wiped out 500 G.I.'s, destroyed 170 military vehicles (including 50 tanks and armoured cars) and 11 105mm howitzers and 106.7mm mortars.

— In the Dong Pan area, they knocked out 200 G.I.'s and destroyed 50 military vehicles and 10 artillery pieces of different calibres.

Mar. 11 :

— In the Ben Ra area, they virtually destroyed one U.S. company, and 6 armoured cars, and brought down 2 HU1A helicopters.

— In the Dong Pan area, they annihilated one U.S. company.

TWO MORE RESOUNDING VICTORIES OF THE L.A.F.

• 3 U.S. Infantry and Armoured Battalions Annihilated, 100 Military Vehicles Destroyed at Bau Bang, 70 km North of Saigon *(Mar. 19)*

• One U.S. Battalion Annihilated and Another Badly Mauled 30 km Northeast of Tay Ninh *(Mar. 21)*

ON March 19, 1967, at 1.45 p.m., the L.A.F. launched a fierce attack on an American task force of the 9th Infantry Division, comprising one infantry and 2 armoured battalions, encamped north of Bau Bang on Highway 13.

Within an hour, all three battalions of task force were annihilated, over 100 military vehicles destroyed, among them 54 tanks and armoured cars, one helicopter shot down, a large quantity of weapons and military equipment captured.

This was the 4th big victory reaped by the L.A.F. at Bau Bang so far. The first was in July 1965 : one puppet battalion was annihilated, together with a squadron of armoured cars belonging to the 5th puppet Division. The second was in November of the same year : two infantry battalions and two squadrons of armoured cars belonging to the 1st U.S. Infantry Division were destroyed. The third was on March 5, 1966 : one battalion of the 1st U.S. Infantry Division annihilated.

According to a report by *G.P.V.* (Liberation Press Agency), determined to foil Operation *Junction City* the L.A.F. on March 21 fiercely attacked an American unit of the 3rd Brigade (4th Infantry Division) at a place 30km northeast of Tay Ninh.

Preliminary reports announced that within ten minutes, the L.A.F. had become masters of the battlefield, after having liquidated one U.S. battalion, badly mauled another one, destroyed 72 military vehicles of all types, 14 105-mm and 175-mm howitzers and shot down 9 planes.

THE L.A.F. WON SUCCESSIVE VICTORIES on Various Battlefields

WHILE foiling Operation *Junction City* with resounding successes in Tay Ninh province, the L.A.F. dealt telling blows at the enemy in Quang Tri province (near the demilitarized area) and in the jungle of the Western High Plateaux (Tay Nguyen).

According to *G.P.V.* Liberation Press Agency) L.A.F. bombardments from Feb. 28 night to Mar. 7, caused heavy enemy losses north of Quang Tri province.

On Feb. 28 night the people's forces put out of action 100 G.I.'s and destroyed 3 175mm guns.

On Mar. 6, L.A.F. artillery paralyzed tens of long-range U.S. guns and put out of action 485 G.I.'s. In the night, they destroyed 4 175mm guns and put out of action 200 G.I.'s.

In the same period, the L.A.F. struck at the enemy in other theatres :

— In the South West of Gio Linh, they put out of action 600 G.I.'s, destroyed 5 tanks and downed 3 U.S. helicopters.

— In the area near the Lao border, 5km to the North West of Huong Hoa district, they put out of action 180 G.I.'s and 70 puppet soldiers, destroyed 5 helicopters and a fuel depot at Ta Con airstrip.

— At Dong Ha, they put out of action 200 G.I.'s and destroyed 6 armoured cars.

— In the Cam Lo area, they put out of action 215 G.I.'s, destroyed 3 tanks, and downed 3 helicopters.

Between Feb. 26 and Mar. 11, 1967, the L.A.F. put out of action 2,730 enemy troops,

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